

Origin and Growth

Scottsdale is centrally located in Maricopa County, Arizona, with its boundaries encompassing an area approximately 185.2 square miles. Lying at an elevation of 1,260 feet above sea level, the City averages 314 days of sunshine and 7.74 inches of rainfall per year, with the average minimum and maximum temperatures ranging from 55.7 degrees to 84.6 degrees, respectively. The City is bordered to the west by Phoenix, the state capital, by Tempe to the south, and by the Salt River/Pima Maricopa Indian Community to the east. Scottsdale, together with its neighboring cities, forms the greater metropolitan Phoenix area, which is the economic, political, and population center of the state.

Scottsdale was founded in the 1800's when retired Army Chaplain Major Winfield Scott homesteaded what is now the center of the City. The City incorporated in 1951 and the City Charter, under which it is presently governed, was adopted in 1961. The City has experienced significant increases in population, with the 1950 census reporting 2,032 residents. The City's 1990 census was 130,069. The population grew to 168,176 in October 1995 and is estimated to grow to approximately 216,640 by January 2003 and an estimated 221,033 in January 2004.

Government and Organization

Scottsdale operates under a council-manager form of government as provided by its Charter. The Mayor and six City Council members are elected at large on a non-partisan ballot for a four-year term. The City Council appoints the City Manager, who has full responsibility for carrying out Council policies and administering City operations. The City Manager, in turn, appoints City employees and department General Managers under service procedures specified by Charter.

Employment

Scottsdale is creating jobs faster than it is adding to its labor force, and thus is a net importer of jobs. Not only does this situation create employment opportunities for the residents, but it also creates a significant business component to the local tax base. The unemployment rate is lower than state and metro levels and is approximately 3.7% (May 2003).

Transportation

Scottsdale's transportation network offers citizens a variety of mobility choices. The Pima and Red Mountain Freeways and City streets let people move into and around the City. The advanced technology of Intelligent Transportation Systems detection and signalization make getting around faster, especially during special events like the Phoenix Open. Local and regional bus routes and alternative modes of transportation such as Cab Connection and bicycles provide additional access to this extraordinary City. Scottsdale Airport, operated by the City, provides general aviation and worldwide charter air service. The Transportation Department's divisions are Aviation, Traffic Engineering, Transportation Master Planning, Capital Improvement Projects Planning, and Administration. They work together to support the mission of protecting neighborhoods and providing for safe, efficient and affordable movement of people and goods in Scottsdale.

Educational Facilities

Several institutions of higher learning are available to City residents. Scottsdale Community College, a part of the Maricopa Community College System, is located on the eastern border of the City, on the Salt River/Pima Maricopa Indian Community. The college is a two-year college which offers a wide variety of academic, occupational, developmental, and special interest programs. Arizona State University, one of the major universities in the nation, is located in Tempe just south of the City. The University has approximately 45,700 students, graduate and undergraduate, a choice of 12 colleges and has 1,822 full-time faculty members. Other higher educational facilities include the University of Phoenix and the Scottsdale Culinary Institute. The City is also served by 25 public elementary and middle schools, 5 public high schools, and a number of private schools.

Tourism

Tourism is one of Scottsdale's largest industries and is a significant contributor to Scottsdale's economy. Numerous resort and convention facilities, along with many hotels and motels, provide nearly 10,000 guest rooms, along with many public and private golf courses and tennis courts, and several country clubs. The number of rooms is expected to remain stable through 2003. More than 2,500 retail shops, boutiques, and galleries are located throughout the City and a selection of almost 400 restaurants is available. These services and facilities, complemented by the mild winter, have made Scottsdale a popular vacation spot for tourists and winter visitors.

Demographics

The following tables provide additional demographic statistics for the City of Scottsdale and its citizenry from the 2000 U.S. Census.

Gender

Male	48.2%
Female	51.8%

Age Composition

Under 5 years	5.2%
5 – 14 years	11.1%
15 – 24 years	9.7%
25 – 54 years	45.5%
55 – 59 years	6.5%
60 – 74 years	14.5%
75 – 84 years	5.8%
85+	1.8%
Median age (years)	42.1

Occupational Composition

Technical/Sales	
Administrative/Support	20.0%
Managerial & Professional	18.0%
Service/Labor	23.0%
Craft/Construction	4.0%
Retired/Student	35.0%

Race/Ethnic Origin

White	88.0%
Hispanic	7.0%
Asian	2.0%
African American	1.2%
American Indian6%
Other	1.2%

Educational Attainment

4 or more years of college	44.1%
1 – 3 years of college	33.3%
High School Diploma	16.2%
Less than High School Diploma	6.4%

Land Use

Residential	63.0%
Undeveloped/Agricultural	25.0%
Industrial/Commercial	12.0%

Population

1951	2,021
1960	27,010
1965	54,504
1970	67,841
1975	78,085
1980	84,412
1985	92,844
1990	130,069
1995	168,176
2000	202,705
January 2004 estimate	220,480

Household Income

Less than \$15,000	8.5%
\$15,001- \$29,000	13.4%
\$30,000 - \$39,000	10.3%
\$40,000 – \$59,999	18.0%
\$60,000+	49.8%
Median Household Income	\$59,873

[Source: City of Scottsdale, Economic Vitality Department]